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# The Evans & Reeves Grapevine

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## IT'S TIME FOR —

August is the absolute deadline for warm-weather flowers from flats and small pots. If your early-planted borders are in their peak of summer bloom, that fact is itself a promise of the mangey look in September to be followed by nothing in October and November. Late summer planting always calls for a bit of ingenuity plus the casting aside of a few prejudices. By that we mean that you can't always make use of the pastel color scheme at this season, and you can't be too upstage about "common" materials.

It's too late to achieve success (usually) with China Asters and the soft June loveliness of Cambridge blue Lobelia, but you can still have a fine long display of tall yellow **Marigolds** (often blooming until Christmas) edged with lavender-blue **Ageratum** or dwarf **Marigolds**. And dwarf (to two and one-half feet) **Dahlias** in four-inch pots just starting to bloom will fill a two-foot space (you can select them all the same color if you wish) and be showy from now through Chrysanthemum time. We've already called attention to **extra-late flowering Mums** which may be put in from plant bands until August 20. And **Zinnias** planted right now will go through October or a little longer.

**PERENNIALS** in color in cans now include **Dianthus**—have you seen the clear warm pink called Princess? **Justicia** (also known as Jacobinia), a rose pink-flowered shade shrub usually treated as a perennial here; tall yellow **Verbascum**; **Salvia pitcheri**, sky blue; **Cerastigma**, blue, in three

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### RARE PLANTS

## Long Time See

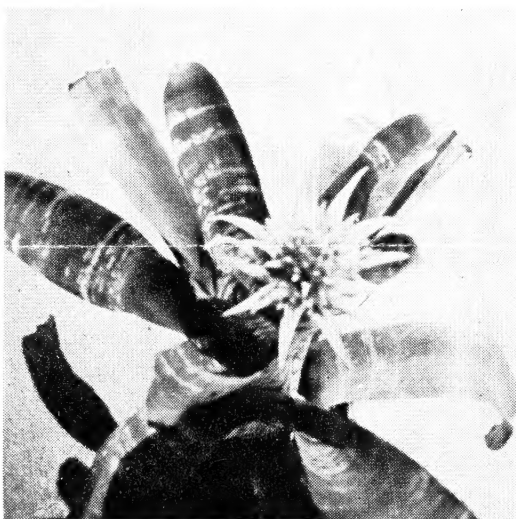
**Aechmea fasciata** is an arresting plant related to the pineapple, with stiff, recurving sword-like leaves and a startling flower which emerges from the center of the plant. This Bromeliad is native to Brazil where it grows somewhat in the manner of Orchids, lodged in tree trunks and

branches high above the ground. In its natural habitat it is almost entirely epiphytic, which is to say it derives its nourishment from the humid jungle air augmented by ample rainfall.

Long prized by the florists of Europe as a pot plant, **Aechmea fasciata** is to be seen in the outdoor stalls in France and Belgium every spring. The form and foliage of the plant are extremely decorative, but the flower, which is in the form of a stylized pine cone of

soft pink, studded with pale blue jewels, has the surprising property of enduring in good condition for five or six months, a near record for any kind of flowering subject.

Although this Bromeliad has been known and admired by horticulturists in this country for many years, it is still quite rare and rather difficult to obtain. We have successfully grown the plant out-of-doors under lath for many years, both in pots and in the earth. But only within the last few months have we ever had a sufficient stock to offer **Aechmea fasciata** for sale. We endeavor to have one blooming plant on hand at all times to demonstrate its unique charm, and we feel sure you would be interested in seeing it. Four-inch pots, \$5.



**AECHMEA FASCIATA**

# It's Time For —

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heights; **Anagallis** in pink only; and the great **Mexican tree Dahlia** for eight to ten-foot plants surmounted by masses of orchid in December.

For riotous tropical color and a profusion of flowers in your garden, now is the time to select **Hisbiscus** from our choice collection of Hawaiian hybrids, double or single flowers in vivid or soft hues against glossy green foliage.

Other **FLOWERING SHRUBS** which may be chosen at this time for their form and texture as well as color are **Tibouchina semidecandra** (formerly called *Pleroma*)—consider the bronze velvet leaves as well as its royal purple flowers when placing it (a good strong compliment for *Bougainvillea*); **Crotalaria** for chartreuse and gray-green; **Bougainvillea Orange Glory**; **Erythrina Bidwilli** in spectrum red — grown better as a shrub than as a tree; **Grevillea Banksii** for a hot dry place to give strong-patterned open structure and pure red flowers of fascinating design in warm spells throughout the year; **Cassia**, both *corymbosa* and *bicapsularis*, flowering in brightest yellow from mid-August through October; and for a dampish, slightly shaded spot, **Clerodendron Bungeii** (*foetidum*) whose big heads of raspberry-rose add harmoniously to a pink and blue planting of *Hydrangea*, *Impatiens* and the like.

And don't forget to keep on hand plenty of chlordane spray for caterpillars. **Spray and feed your garden every two weeks.**

## INTRODUCING

Nary a flower in his backyard, no lawns to maintain, no pests to control; all this makes our personality of the month a very rare individual in the nursery business. While all the other people at our establishment spend most of their free moments away from the nursery pattering around in their yards, Frank Plasencia bids farewell to the beauties and horrors of horticulture when he drives his automobile off our premises at night, never to touch the subject again until it is time to return.

A rarity amongst nursery workers? You've only read half the story so far. The most startling fact of all is that Frank does almost all the plant buying for our nurseries.



## Hugh Evans

The matter of success in growing plants is partly instinctive, partly the fruit of experience and largely the result of a genuine love for plants. Most gardens have their tragedies, some plant which just would not grow, or which after doing nicely for a while, finally perished. There is of course always a reason for these distressing incidents, though sometimes the reason is hard to come by, as ailments which afflict and carry off our prized plants are often obscure and difficult to diagnose. Proper preparation of the soil before planting will accomplish wonders in preventing plant tragedies and insuring the health and success of the plants themselves.

Good gardeners naturally possess or have developed the faculty of observation. Beauty exists in the eye of the beholder, who on beholding beauty elsewhere than in his own garden is fired by a zeal to achieve a like result. That our gardens large or small may be spots of enchantment rests with us. The sweep of lawn, the gay herbaceous borders, the cool reaches of the shady areas, or the sudden splendor of a *Bougainvillea* on a sunny roof, these things may be had, by taking some pains.

So if we do a little contriving and spend some money as it is necessary (and where could it be better spent?), our gardens will mean for us happy and melodious days.

## Frank Plasencia

Frank Plasencia came to Evans and Reeves in 1940, and worked for many years driving a delivery truck all over town, doing his share to give good service and cement pleasant relationships with our valued customers. A freak accident on one of his deliveries made it necessary for us to ground Frank in order to give his injured knee a rest. Working in the yard, checking all incoming and outgoing merchandise, Frank gradually assumed more and more of the plant ordering because of his familiarity with the materials.

What does he do in his spare time? He spends it at home with his very attractive wife, son, a new baby girl, and a black *Dachshund*.



## VINE OF THE MONTH

### I'LL TAKE VANILLA

**Distictus lactiflora** is a most beautiful vanilla-scented flowering vine from South America. **Distictus** is a member of the Bignonia family, or what are commonly known as "trumpet vines," but it is quite distinct from any of its cousins, both in color and character. It is evergreen with good-sized leaves and a string climbing habit, though a little slow when young. Once established in a sunny location, **Distictus** puts on a beautiful display of lavender flowers for several months in the summer when the trumpet blossoms come out—a rich violet with a yellow throat which, within a few days, shades off to a somewhat softer color.

This colorful vine is considered by many to be the finest of all climbers, and indeed when one beholds a good specimen in full bloom it is hard to imagine anything more beautiful. Although the plant was first introduced in Southern California many years ago—at least a quarter of a century ago—it is still quite uncommon. It has never been easy to increase, although the recent innovations in commercial propagation have brought forth a fair supply of plants in the trade, of which we have an ample stock.

If there is a warm situation in your garden where a vine might be planted we urge you to come in and see **Distictus** in bloom. It does particularly well in the coastal area, and no other trumpet flower, or any vine for that matter, can match it for profusion of bloom.

Five gallon containers, \$5.

## TO MOW, OR NOT TO MOW

### Landscape Lines

Recently we were listening to an enthusiastic soul describing the beauties of a summer morning at his Brentwood canyon home, "... the sigh of the breeze through the Sycamores, the twittering of the birds, the wild Lilac in bloom on the hillside, the hum of the lawn mower and the smell of the freshly cut grass . . ." We go along with everything, except the last. We hate the sound of a lawn mower and the smell of newly cut grass! Unless, of course, someone else is doing the cutting.

A perfect Sunday morning can be absolutely ruined by grass. You know something has got to be done about it. It needs cutting. In fact it needs cutting badly. And not only that, it's no longer the rich, emerald green it showed on the seed package; it's a kind of off-chartreuse and the devil grass is now making a very successful fight to take over completely. What a beautiful morning . . . it was.

So what we are driving at is, do we need so much lawn? And right there you can get yourself an argument. But for our part, we know from years of experience that a "good" lawn is a luxury, the most expensive part of the garden upkeep.

So we like to compromise. If a lawn is necessary, we make it as small as possible. And what, you ask, becomes of all the rest of the area that would normally be in lawn? You would be surprised at the choice of material that makes excellent substitutes for grass. And believe us, there are lots of things besides Ivy and Ivy Geranium. Many of them can be walked on like grass. And we don't mean Dichondra.

The Evans & Reeves landscape department has designed and installed, recently, several gardens where, in place of lawns, various gravels of different textures and colors have been used. This kind of treatment is of course ideal for garden furniture and the maintenance is practically nil. Another treatment used by our landscape department is a combination of redwood paving blocks and Dichondra.

So if you are a slave to a lawn mower, we can show you how to throw off the shackles . . . sit down in a comfortable garden chair on Sunday morning, relax and listen to the hum of a **distant** lawn mower.





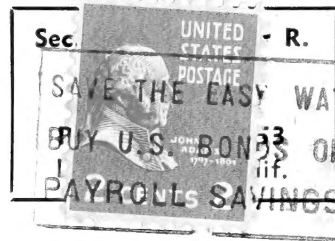
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Say You Read It In *The Grapevine*